

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on January 12, 2006. Claims 1-17, 20-23, 32 and 33 were pending in that action. All claims were rejected. With the present response, claims 24-31 are canceled. Claims 1, 10 and 32 are amended. The remaining claims are unchanged.

Beginning on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 10 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. With the present response, Applicant has amended claim 10 to eliminate the term "successfully." Thus, the claim language now indicates that the displayed alternate grammar rules comprise grammar rules "not applied in generating the parse tree." Claim 32 has been completely re-written to eliminate the indicated potential ambiguity. Thus, it is respectfully submitted the §112 rejections are no longer applicable to the claims as amended. It is respectfully requested that the rejections now be withdrawn.

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1 and 32 as being incomplete for omitting steps or elements. With the present response, claim 1 has been amended to make it clear that the "displaying" step is contingent upon a positive determination. Claim 32 has been re-written to incorporate a determination that a given rule if applied would be unsuccessful. It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended overcome the objections noted on page 5. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objections now be withdrawn.

Beginning on page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected all pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,914,590 (hereinafter referred to as "the Loatman reference"). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections.

Independent claim 1 includes displaying a plurality of display items proximate to a selected connection point. As claimed, the display items include alternate rules that are rules other than the rules used to generate a constituent associated with the selected connection point.

In supporting the rejection of these claim elements, the Examiner points to the Loatman reference at FIG. 9 and column 37, lines 14-25. The Examiner points to the teaching of the display of a "menu" as shown in FIG. 9B. It is respectfully pointed out that the menu referred to by the Examiner contains a "clause's registers, case roles, and other variables." In no way is it even suggested that this display includes alternate rules including rules other than those used to generate a constituent at the selected point.

Instead, the passages of the Loatman reference cited by the Examiner appear to show nothing more than displaying the rules that were actually and successfully applied to the input text to obtain the displayed parse. If the user is not satisfied with the parse, or if the parse is actually incorrect, the user must rely on memory to recall the rules that could be applied in a given situation.

In reference to FIG. 9B of the Loatman reference, the Examiner states that the "FO933 variables are interpreted to include alternate rules." This attempt at interpretation is clearly not supported by the reference itself. The interpretation is therefore considered by Applicant to be an inappropriate application of hindsight logic. There is simply no teaching or suggestion to support the proposed interpretation.

The Examiner points alternatively to the verification of "dirty" as discussed in the Loatman reference relative to FIG. 19. The Examiner specifically asserts that the illustrated verification process is interpreted as being equivalent to the claimed alternate rules. Even if this interpretation was

considered reasonable, Applicant points out that there is absolutely no indication that the illustrated verification process is displayed as claimed. It is neither taught nor suggested that the process should be displayed proximate to a selected connecting point. The Examiner's interpretation is inconsistent with the language of the claims.

Claim 10 is similar to claim 1 in that it states "the menu items including an alternate grammar rules display item which, when activated, displays alternate rules comprising rules not applied in generating the parse tree." As claimed, the menu items are displayed proximate to a selected connecting point. In rejecting this claim, the Examiner again points to the verification of "dirty" as discussed in the Loatman reference relative to FIG. 19. The Examiner specifically asserts that the illustrated verification process is interpreted as being equivalent to the claimed menu items. Even if this interpretation was considered reasonable, Applicant points out that there is absolutely no indication that the illustrated verification process is displayed as claimed. It is neither taught nor suggested that the process should be displayed proximate to a selected connecting point. The Examiner's interpretation is inconsistent with the language of the claims. Thus, claim 10 is similarly distinguishable from the cited reference.

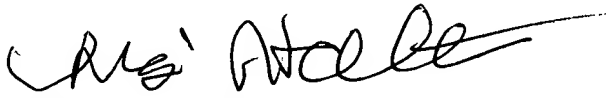
Simply put, the Loatman reference does not appear to teach or suggest that either rules that were unsuccessfully applied to the input text, or rules that were not applied at all to the input text in obtaining the displayed parse, are displayed to the user. As described in the background portion of the present application, this requires the user, when debugging the system, to remember all rules that could apply to the input text, and to choose one of those rules, from the user's memory, to correct an incorrect parse. This does not appear to be addressed anywhere by the Loatman reference. Instead, the passages of the

Loatman reference cited by the Examiner with reference to FIG. 9 show, at best, noting more than displaying the rules that were actually and successfully applied to the input text to obtain the displayed parse. The passages of the reference cited with reference to FIG. 19 in no way teach or suggest display proximate to a selected connecting point.

In sum, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 10 are allowable of the cited Loatman reference. Applicant further submits that dependent claims 2-9, 11-17, 20-23, 32 and 33, which dependent from the independent claims, are allowable as well. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-17, 20-23, 32 and 33 are respectfully solicited. The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 

Christopher L. Holt, Reg. No. 45,844
Suite 1400 - International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

CLH:rkp